

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9042

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 8656

DEPT FOR A/SY/FO AND ARA/MGT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: CONTRACT CIVILIAN GUARD PROPOSAL, AMEMBASSY, CARACAS

REF: (A) A-688 DATED 10 FEB 1977

(B) RSO CARACAS RPT DTD 1/25/77 RE PROTECTIVE SECURITY

PROGRAMMING FOR AMB & DCM CARACAS

(C) CARACAS A-104 DATED 7/25/77

SUMMARY:

RSO HAS CONCLUDED A STUDY OF THE EXISITING CIVILIAN GUARD PROGRAM VERSUS REQUIREMENTS FOR FUTURE EXPANSION. BASED UPON THE FOLLOWING, POST MGT AND MEMBERS OF THE SWC AGREE THAT EXPANSION IS JUSTIFIED. EXPANSION WOULD INCLUDE AN INCREASE IN GUARDS AT THE RESIDENCE, AND POSTS TO BE ESTABLISHED AT THE DCM RESIDENCE AND CHANCERY COMPOUND.

1. EXISTING CIVILIAN GUARD SERVICE

EMBASSY PRESENTLY CONTRACTS WITH VENEZOLANA DE SEGURIDAD AND VIGILANCIA C.A. (VESEVICA) FOR ONE TWENTY-FOUR HOUR ARMED POST AT THE RESIDENCE. THE AMOUNT OF US \$17,383.50 IS PAID FOR THIS SERVICE FROM POST ALLOTTED FUNDS.

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2. THREAT ASSESSMENT

A. GENERAL- THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY IN VENEZUELA FOR A DRAMATIC NIEHOUS-STYLE KIDNAPPING OPERATION. TERRORIST GROUPS ARE ACTIVE; HOWEVER, AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE IS NO HARD EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT SUCH GROUPS ARE PREPARED FOR SUCH AN ENDEAVOR AGAINST U.S. PERSONNEL OR INSTALLATIONS. HOWEVER, IF THE

PANAMA CANAL TREATY IS NOT RATIFIED BY CONGRESS, GROUPS BENT UPON HOSTILE INTENT MIGHT WELL CONSIDER AN OPERATION TO EMBARRASS OR BRING LEVERAGE TO BEAR UPON THE USG. IN ADDITION, VERY RECENT RELIABLE INFORMATION HAS BEEN DEVELOPED THAT CUBAN EXILES ARE CONSIDERING AN AGGRESSIVE ACT AGAINST THE U.S. EMBASSY, CARACAS. SPECIFICS OF THE TYPE OF OPERATION ARE UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME; HOWEVER, THEIR MOTIVATION STEMS FROM BEING UPSET WITH BOTH THE GOV'S AND USG'S GROWING TIES WITH CUBA. THEY FEEL THAT AN AGGRESSIVE ACT WOULD SERVE TO EMBARRASS AND AGITATE BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

B. AMBASSADOR/DMC - BOTH OFFICERS MAINTAIN HIGH VISIBILITY AND LIKEWISE ARE CONSIDERED AS PRIMARY TARGETS FOR TERRORIST ACTION. IN LATE 1976 INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED INDICATING THAT THE U.S. AMBASSADOR, AMONG OTHER PERSONS, WAS BEING CONSIDERED AS THE TARGET FOR A KIDNAPPING OPERATION. NOTHING FURTHER DEVELOPED.

C. CHANCERY COMPOUND - THE CHANCERY COMPOUND IN CARACAS IS A PRIME TARGET FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITY. THERE IS A TREMENDOUS PEDESTRIAN FLOW THROUGH THE COMPOUND DAILY WHETHER FOR CONSULAR, COMMERCIAL OR POLITICAL REASONS. AS INDICATED IN PARA 4 BELOW, ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE GUARDIA NACIONAL CANNOT BE OBTAINED FOR THE SCREENING OF PEDESTRIANS. WITH CURRENT AND FUTURE PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC PROBLEMS, INADEQUATE SCREENING WILL ONLY MAKE POTENTIAL TERRORIST PLANNING MORE FEASIBLE.

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3. A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY HAS BEEN FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR PHYSICAL SECURITY PROJECTS AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND CHANCERY PROJECTS. THESE FEATURES WILL NOT REPLACE BUT AUGMENT THE PROPOSED GUARD INCREASE. PRESENTLY A MARINE GUARD IS SCREENING PEDESTRIANS AS THEY ENTER THE COMPOUND DURING PEAK CONSULAR ACTIVITY. WITH THE REQUESTED T/O DECREASE FOR THE CARACAS DETACHMENT, THIS MSG SCREENING ASSISTANCE IS NOT PERMANENT NOR CAN IT BE CONSIDERED A SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEM.

4. THE GOV PRESENTLY PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING:

- A. AMB RESIDENCE - ONE 24-HOUR METROPOLITAN POLICE (MPD) POST OF ONE MAN PER TWENTY-FOUR HOUR SHIFT.
- B. DCM RESIDENCE - ONE 24-HOUR METROPOLITAN POLICE POST.
- C. EMBASSY COMPOUND - EIGHT GUARDIA NACIONAL GUARDS. THEY MAN TWO TWENTY-FOUR HOUR POSTS SEVEN DAYS PER WEEK. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL GUARDS HAVE MET WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.
- D. THE MPD AT (A) & (B) ABOVE FREQUENTLY LEAVE THEIR POSTS. SINCE FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR THE DCM GUARD HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT DUE TO MANPOWER SHORTAGES. DISCIPLINARY ACTION HAS BEEN OF LITTLE USE.

5. PROPOSED EXPANSION- THE FOLLOWING GUARD PROGRAM EXPANSION
IS PROPOSED:

A. RESIDENCE - 2 POSTS - POST NO. 1, 24 HOURS PER DAY;
POST NO. 2, 16 HOURS PER DAY.

B. DCM RESIDENCE - 1 POST - 24 HOURS PER DAY.

C. CHANCERY - 2 POSTS AT PEDESTRIAN GATES, 9 HOURS PER DAY,
5 DAYS PER WEEK.

6. CONTRACT BIDS AND COST ESTIMATE

BIDS FOR THE PROPOSED GUARD SERVICE HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM
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FOUR PRIVATE COMPANIES. THE BID FROM VESEVICA, WHICH PRESENTLY
HOLDS THE CONTRACT, HAS BEEN ACCEPTED CONTINGENT UPON DEPARTMENT
APPROVAL. GUARD ORDERS HAVE BEEN DRAFTED BUT DUE TO GOV LABOR
LAWS MUST BE PUBLISHED BY THE CONTRACTING COMPANY. THE YEARLY
COST OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM IS US \$52,440.00.

7. IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT APPROVE THIS PROPOSAL
IN THE AMOUNT OF US \$52,440.00 SUBJECT TO FY-78 AVAILABILITY OF
FUNDS. ANTICIPATE PAYMENTS TO BE MADE ON MONTHLY BASIS,
EFFECTIVE CONTRACT SIGNING DATE IN OCTOBER 1977.
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